[15th July 1953

SRI G. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, may I know how long the Government will take over this matter? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, this has got to be fixed before the 31st December 1953 and I daresay we shall finish our investigations in a month at the latest."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" Sir, are the Government aware of the fact that the rates fixed by the Government are lower than the rates at present paid for agricultural labour in the villages? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I said, we have invited representations and I am sure the hon. Member has put his suggestions to the Committee to show that the rates proposed are lower than the existing rates. The Government will consider all representations and come to a final decision."

Legislation for fixing minimum wages for agricultural labour.

* 481 *Q.*—SRI G. LATCHANNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are contemplating to bring in a legislation fixing minimum wages for agricultural labour and minimum prices for agricultural products; and

(*b*) if so, when the legislation will be brought in?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The Government are taking action, in pursuance of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (Central Act XI of 1948), to fix Minimum Wages for Agricultural labour. No other legislation is necessary.

" With regard to control of prices of foodstuffs, I am afraid the hon. Member will have to put a separate question to the Hon. Minister for Food.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Arising from the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know, Sir, what action has been taken by the Government? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, the Economic Adviser to the Government has investigated 24 pockets which he thought were low wage pockets and the Government have come to certain conclusions which have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. We have asked associations and individuals interested to send their views on this notification. The Commissioner of Labour and the Government are examining them and as soon as we have finished with them, we will publish our decisions."

* 482 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question will be taken up to-morrow."